

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

29. (New) A method of determining feline or canine proBNP or fragments thereof comprising:

providing a feline or canine sample;

contacting the sample with at least one antibody which, when determining feline proBNP, or fragments thereof, binds to at least one epitope in the region comprising amino acids 20 to 42 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 57 to 80 of feline proBNP, and when determining canine proBNP, or fragments thereof, binds to at least one epitope in the region comprising amino acids 20 to 86 of canine proBNP; and

determining the presence and/or concentration of the feline or canine proBNP, or fragments thereof, present in the sample.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein when determining the feline proBNP or fragments thereof, the at least one antibody binds to at least one epitope in the region comprising amino acids 25 to 35 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 45 to 55 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 60 to 80 of the feline proBNP.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein when determining canine proBNP or fragments thereof, the at least one antibody binds to at least one epitope in the region comprising amino acids 25 to 41 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 55 to 65 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 74 to 86 of the canine proBNP.

32. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one epitope comprises at least 3 amino acids.

33. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one antibody is polyclonal and/or monoclonal.

34. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein at least one further antibody binds to the at least one antibody or to the at least one epitope.

35. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one antibody and/or the at least one further antibody is labeled.
36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the at least one antibody and/or the at least one further antibody is labeled with peroxidase, biotin, fluorescent dye, gold colloid, or a radionuclide.
37. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one antibody or the at least one further antibody is bound to a solid phase.
38. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the determination of feline or canine proBNP or of fragments thereof comprises radioimmunoassay, immune binding assay, Western blot, immunohistochemistry, enzyme immunoassay, and/or a lateral flow device.
39. (New) An antibody or an antibody mixture that binds to at least one epitope in the region comprising amino acids 20 to 42 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 57 to 80 of the feline proBNP and/or the region comprising amino acids 20 to 86 of the canine proBNP.
40. (New) The antibody or an antibody mixture of claim 39, further defined as binding to at least one epitope in the region comprising amino acids 25 to 35 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 45 to 55 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 60 to 80 of the feline proBNP.
41. (New) The antibody or an antibody mixture of claim 39, further defined as binding to at least one epitope in the region comprising amino acids 25 to 41 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 55 to 65 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 74 to 86 of the canine proBNP.
42. (New) The antibody or an antibody mixture of claim 39, wherein the at least one epitope comprises at least 3 amino acids.
43. (New) A peptide comprising at least 3 amino acids in the region of amino acids 20 to 42 and/or in the region of amino acids 57 to 80 of the feline proBNP and/or the region of amino acids 20 to 86 of the canine proBNP.

44. (New) The peptide of claim 43, further comprising at least 3 amino acids in the region of amino acids 25 to 35 and/or in the region of amino acids 45 to 55 and/or in the region of amino acids 60 to 80 of the feline proBNP.
45. (New) The peptide of claim 43, further comprising at least 3 amino acids in the region of amino acids 25 to 41 and/or in the region of amino acids 55 to 65 and/or in the region of amino acids 74 to 86 of the canine proBNP.
46. (New) The peptide of claim 43, wherein the peptide is a chemically synthesized peptide, a peptide isolated from a sample, or a recombinantly prepared peptide.
47. (New) A method comprising:
obtaining an antibody or an antibody mixture that binds to at least one epitope in the region comprising amino acids 20 to 42 and/or in the region comprising amino acids 57 to 80 of the feline proBNP and/or the region comprising amino acids 20 to 86 of the canine proBNP; and
employing it in a method of claim 29.
48. (New) A method comprising:
obtaining a peptide comprising at least 3 amino acids in the region of amino acids 20 to 42 and/or in the region of amino acids 57 to 80 of the feline proBNP and/or the region of amino acids 20 to 86 of the canine proBNP; and
using the peptide to produce an antibody or an antibody mixture according to claim 39.
49. (New) A method comprising:
obtaining a peptide comprising at least 3 amino acids in the region of amino acids 20 to 42 and/or in the region of amino acids 57 to 80 of the feline proBNP and/or the region of amino acids 20 to 86 of the canine proBNP; and
using the peptide a positive control or as a standard for a concentration determination in a method of claim 29.
50. (New) A kit for determining feline or canine proBNP or fragments thereof comprising an antibody or antibody mixture of claim 39.
51. (New) The kit of claim 50, wherein the antibody or antibody mixture of claim 39 is labeled.

52. (New) The kit of claim 51, wherein the antibody or antibody mixture is labeled with peroxidase, biotin, fluorescent dye, gold colloid, or a radionuclide.
53. (New) The kit of claim 50, further comprising a peptide according to claim 43.
54. (New) The kit of claim 50, further comprising at least one further antibody.
55. (New) The kit of claim 54, wherein the at least one further antibody is labeled.
56. (New) The kit of claim 55, wherein the at least one further antibody is labeled with peroxidase, biotin, fluorescent dye, gold colloid, or a radionuclide.